## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

Not all of the claims are amended herein. Nevertheless, for the convenience of the Examiner, all of the pending claims are reproduced below.

1    1. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer implemented management system, which

2    manages registration of computer-related products, including hardware and software products,

3    comprising:

4    a user information general management means, generally managing user registration

5    information, about users of hardware and software products, and using status information

6    thereof transmitted from [a] the user [of the computer-related product]; and

7    a user registration/reference means that interfaces with [a] the users [of the

8    computer-related products] notifying said user information general management means of the

9    user registration information and the using status information at a request of the user [who uses

10   a computer-related product related to the user registration information] and the using status

11   information,

12   wherein the user registration information comprises personal information about

13   each user containing an identification number of each user and registration information

14   containing a type of information which is requested by the users with regard to the computer-

15   related products, said type of information can include a version update or information about

16   products which can be used in combination with products that are used by the users, and

17   new information about the computer-related products from a vendor side of the

18   computer-related products is extracted, depending on information extraction condition

19   containing a requested information type in the registration information, and is transmitted to

20   said user registration/reference means when said user registration/reference means requests, at

21   a request from the users, said user information general management means to provide the new

22   information.

1     2. (ONCE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) The system according to claim

2     1, wherein

3     said user registration/reference means requests at a request from the user said user

4     information general management means to provide new information about the computer-related

5     product from a vendor of the computer-related product.

1     3. (ONCE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) The system according to claim

2     1, wherein

3     the computer-related product is a software product, and said user registration/reference

4     means is common to each of a plurality of software products;

5     when any of the plurality of software products is installed by a user, the user

6     registration/reference means is also installed; and

7     after installation, said user registration/reference means issues a notification about the

8     user registration information and using status information for the plurality of software products

9     which are installed, and submits a request for new information about the software product.

1     4. (ONCE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) The system according to claim

2     1, wherein

3     said user registration information comprises:

4     personal information about each user including an

5     identification number of each user; and

6     registration information containing a type of information

7     requested by the user about a computer related product; and

8     said user information general management means extracts the new information

9     depending on information extraction condition containing a requested information type in the

10     registration information at a request for new information about a computer-related product

11    from said user registration/reference means, and transmits the new information to said user

12    registration/reference means.

1         5. (ONCE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN)  The system according to claim

2·    1, wherein

3         the computer-related product is a software product and the using status information

4    contains the number of times the software product was started; and

5         said user information general management means transmits new information about the

6    software product to said user registration/reference means depending on the number of times

7    the software product was started.

1         6. (ONCE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN)  The system according to claim

2    1, wherein

3         the computer-related product is a software product and the using status information

4    contains the number of times the software product was started; and

5         said user registration/reference means requests said user information general

6    management means to provide new information about the software product when the number of

7    times the software product was started has reached a predetermined value.

.1         7. (ONCE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN)  The system according to claim

2    1, further comprising:

3         a vendor registration/reference means for obtaining the user registration information

4    and the using status information from said user information general management means, and

5         notifying said user information general management means of new information about the

6    computer-related product.

1         8. (ONCE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN)  The system according to claim

2    7, wherein

3    the user registration information contains a type of information, requested by a user,

4    about a computer-related product;

5    said vendor registration/reference means specifies a type of new information when new

6    information about the computer-related product is available; and

7    said user information general management means compares the type of information

8    requested by the user with the type specified by the vendor registration/reference means, and

9    when both types coincide, transmits the new information to said user registration/reference

10    means at a request from said user registration/reference means when the requested information

11    is available.

1    9. (ONCE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) The system according to claim

2    8, wherein

3    one type of said information refers to information about a linking operation with a

4    computer-related product provided by another vendor.

1    10. (TWICE AMENDED) A management apparatus which manages user information

2    about a computer-related product used by a user terminal connected through a network,

3    comprising:

4    a user information general management means for managing using status information

5    and a requested information type provided by the user terminal about a product used by a user;

6    a product information management means for managing product information provided

7    by a vendor of the computer-related product; and

8    a product information notification means for referring to a product used by each user

9    managed by said user information general management means and for providing product

10    information managed by said product information management means about a product used by

11    a user which corresponds to the requested information type.

1        11. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with

2    software to cause a computer to perform the actions of:

3        managing using status information <u>and a requested information type</u> provided by a user

4    terminal about a product used by a user;

5        managing product information provided by a computer-related product vendor; and

6        referring to the using status information and providing product information about the

7    product used by a user <u>which corresponds to the requested information type</u> at a product

8    information request from the user terminal.

1        12. (TWICE AMENDED) A user terminal apparatus comprising:

2        a user information notification means for notifying an external unit of user registration

3    information and using status information <u>and a requested information type</u> about the

4    computer-related product; and

5        a product information reference means for requesting an external unit for new

6    information about the computer-related product <u>which corresponds to the requested</u>

7    <u>information type</u> from a computer-related product vendor.

1        13. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with

.2    software for causing a computer to perform the actions of:

3        notifying an external unit of user registration information and using status information

4    <u>and a requested information type</u> about a computer-related product used by a user; and

5        requesting an external unit for new information about the computer-related product

6    <u>which corresponds to the requested information type</u> from a vendor of the computer related

7    product.

1        14. (TWICE AMENDED) A vendor terminal apparatus comprising:

2      a user information reference means for obtaining, from an external unit, user

3    registration information including a requested information type and using status information

4    transmitted from a user of a computer-related product; and

5      a product information notification means for notifying an external unit of new

6    information about the computer-related product, if the new information about the computer-

7    related product corresponds to the requested information type.


15. (TWICE AMENDED)  A computer-readable storage medium encoded with

2    software to cause a computer to perform the actions of:

3      obtaining, from an external unit, user registration information including a requested

4    information type, and using status information transmitted from a user of a computer-related

5    product; and

6      notifying an external unit of new information about the computer-related product, if the

7    new information about the computer-related product corresponds to the requested information

8    type.


1      16. (ONCE AMENDED)  A computer implemented management system, which

2    manages registration of computer-related products, comprising:

3      a user information general management module generally managing user registration

4    information including a requested information type, and using status information transmitted

5    from a user of the computer-related product; and

6      a user registration/reference module that interfaces with a user of the computer-related

7    products notifying said user information general management module of the user registration

8    information and the using status information at a request of the user who uses a computer-

9    related product related to the user registration information and the using status information and

10   which corresponds to the requested information type.

1    17. (NOT AMENDED)    The system according to claim 16, wherein

2    the computer-related product is a software product, and said user registration/reference

3    module is  common to each of a plurality of software products;

4    when any of the plurality of software products is installed by a user, the user

5    registration/reference module is also installed; and

6    after installation, said user registration/reference means issues a notification about the

7    user registration information and using status information for the plurality of software products

8    which are installed, and submits a request for new information about the software product.


1    18.   (ONCE AMENDED)   A user registration center managing and distributing

2    information provided by both a user and a vendor comprising:

3    a receiving module receiving a product information from the vendor;

4    a user information module receiving a user information including using status from the

5    user and a requested information type;

6    a database storing the product information and the user information; and

7    a distributing module distributing, from the database,  user information to the vendor

8    and product information to the user which corresponds to the requested information type and

9    using status [depending on the user information data].


1    19. (ONCE AMENDED)    A method of managing and distributing information

2    provided by both a user and a vendor comprising:

3    receiving product information from the vendor;

4    receiving user information from the user which includes a product used by the user;

5    receiving a requested information type from the user;

6    storing the product information and user information and requested information type in

7    a database;

8    managing the product information and the user information and the requested